

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT District Attorney	(2) MEETING DATE January 29, 2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Cindy Marie Absey 781-5821	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve annual contracts (Clerk's Filed) with the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center in the amount of \$38,400 each for disbursement of County Domestic Violence Program Special Fund Monies and Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account Monies.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division recommends that the Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign annual contracts to disburse Domestic Violence Special Fund monies and funds from the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account with the following: 1) Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County for a grant in the amount of \$38,400; and 2) North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center for a grant in the amount of \$38,400; and 3) approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$31,800 using Domestic Violence revenues as the financing source in Fund Center 132 - District Attorney, and increase appropriations in Professional and Special Services by \$31,800.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) DV Program Spec Fund; Battered Women's Trust Acct.	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$80,842.00 ; \$38,400 Women Shelter of SLO Co; \$38,400 NCWS; \$4,042 Admin Fee	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$80,842.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR)  SLO Shelter: 19001208; No.Co. Shelter: 19001209		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1213058 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: <u>1/24/12 and annual</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: District Attorney / Cindy Marie Absey  
781-5821

DATE: January 29, 2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve annual contracts (Clerk's Filed) with the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center in the amount of \$38,400 each for disbursement of County Domestic Violence Program Special Fund Monies and Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account Monies.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division recommends that the Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign annual contracts to disburse Domestic Violence Special Fund monies and funds from the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account with the following: 1) Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County for a grant in the amount of \$38,400; and 2) North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center for a grant in the amount of \$38,400; and 3) approve a budget adjustment in the amount of \$31,800 using Domestic Violence revenues as the financing source in Fund Center 132-District Attorney, and increase appropriations in Professional and Special Services by \$31,800.

## **DISCUSSION**

The County sets aside \$23 from each marriage license fee issued for the purpose of funding domestic violence programs. Historically, two agencies have applied for and received funds: the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center. Both agencies are eligible to receive these funds based on 2007 criteria set forth in the Welfare and Institutions Code as amended by the passage of AB 2084 which restricts this funding to "domestic violence shelter-based programs".

In addition to the trust account generated from marriage license fees, fines collected from defendants convicted of domestic violence pursuant to Penal Code 1203.097(a)(11)(A) and designated for battered women's shelters, are also available for disbursement. As a result of legislation enacted in 2010, the percentage of domestic violence offender fines designated for local women shelters increased, so this year's distribution from the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account is greater than it has been in the past several years.

As both shelters provide similar services, we recommend that the County divide the available funding equally, as it has done in prior years.

After the deduction of a 5% administrative fee, the combined total of both trust accounts budgeted by the District Attorney and available for disbursement is \$76,800, or \$38,400 per shelter. As with prior years, the County's District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division has administered the contracts and disbursed the funds through the District Attorney's budget with no impact on the General Fund.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

Both women shelter programs and a number of community public and non-profit agencies and groups are members of the County's Domestic Violence Task Force and their representatives participate on the Task Force on a bi-monthly basis.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

All funds recommended for distribution are generated through the Domestic Violence Shelter Based Programs Act of 2006 and the Battered Women's Shelter Trust Account. As with prior years, the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Division retains a 5% administrative fee from the accumulated funds to help cover the costs of preparing and processing the contracts. After the deduction of the administrative fee, the funds available for distribution equal \$76,800 or \$38,400 per shelter. This action will disburse \$38,400 to the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County and \$38,400 to the North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center. These disbursements are an increase over last year's disbursements of \$18,893 per shelter and \$23,999 in 2010, and reflect the accumulated increased percentage of domestic violence offender fines since the 2010 legislation went into effect. A budget adjustment in (#1213058) in the amount of \$31,800 related to this action has been coordinated with the Auditor-Controller.

## **RESULTS**

As intended by law, disbursement of these funds will augment the local women's shelters' budgets and provide additional funding for shelter-based emergency and support services for victims of domestic violence and their children. For FY 2010-11, the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County (WSP) provided 3,480 shelter nights and 10,440 meals for 109 clients, including women and children. The WSP also provided 13,210 nights of transitional housing to 80 clients and their children. The North County Women's Shelter and Resource Center provided 6,269 shelter nights and 18,807 meals for 130 women and children. In addition to shelter services, both shelters offer crisis counseling, individual and group counseling, restraining order assistance, case management, information and referrals, and outreach services to survivors of domestic violence and their children.

The disbursement of these funds to our County's two women shelters supports the District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Division's goal to "reduce the effects of crime on victims, family members, and the community" by providing augmented funding for these two essential referral agencies in our community. The ongoing availability of domestic violence shelter services contributes to the Victim/Witness County performance measure "percentage of new crime victims on cases filed by the District Attorney who are assisted by Victim/Witness within 8 working days" through the hundreds of cross-referrals between the Victim/Witness Assistance Center and the shelters. During FY 2011-12, the Victim/Witness Assistance Center assisted over 3800 victims of crime and 26% were victims of domestic violence and related crimes. Referrals between the Victim/Witness Assistance Center and the two women shelter programs link victims with services that reduce their confusion and frustration with the criminal justice system and enhance the domestic violence victim's ability to reclaim and reorganize their lives.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Domestic Violence Shelter contracts 2013 (Clerk's Filed)